

Informal Conference

6:00 p.m. January 27, 2009

Application #1003841

Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy
Buchanan-Smith Building (Conference Room 219)
Big Stone Gap, Virginia

1. Doors were open to the public at 5:45 p.m.
2. The conference began at 6:00 p.m. with welcome by Gavin Bledsoe (DMME, facilitator)
3. Purpose of the meeting – to receive comments on the permit application – the application is technically complete enough for the DMLR to receive public comments and concerns.
4. General overview of how meeting would be conducted –
 - Informational presentation provided in Conference Room 219 – DMLR staff present to respond to inquiries as to location of certain information in the permit application. The application and surface water hydrology maps were displayed and a paper copy of the application & corresponding Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 permit application (9 volumes) were provided for review.
 - individual comments would be taken in Conference Room 211. Persons also were informed they could submit written comments.
5. Media - Reporters (2) from [The Post](#) were present. An individual with the environmental organization [Appalachian Voices](#) videoed initially in Conference Room 219 and all the comments that were presented in Conference Room 211.
6. 41 persons from the public attended.
7. DMLR staff present: Terri Gibson, Receptionist; Marilyn Gates, DMLR Office Services Specialist (serving as conference recorder); Tim Cox, DMLR Permit Review Specialist; Ken Artrip, Reclamation Inspector; Tony Scales, Geologist; Rodney Baker, Water Quality Specialist; Mike Smith, Hydro-Geologist, Tom Hyder, Engineer, Tom Mitchell, Engineer, Jerry Legg, Agronomist, Jon Lawson, Agronomist; Don Carter, Blasting Specialist; Les Vincent, Technical Services Manager; Jackie Davis, Division Director; Gary Egan, Program Manager; Lynn Haynes, Program Manager; and Mike Giles, DMLR Area Supervisor.
8. Others present: representative of permit applicant, representatives of the consultant D. R. Allen & Associates, and a representative of the Virginia Mining Association.
9. Attendees were informed of the DMLR decision process –
 - Within 60 days from the close of the conference to approve, disapprove, or require additional information.
 - Permittee and Commenter would be informed in writing of the DMLR's decision on the application as well as the right to administrative review of such.
10. Comments regarding the application were taken in Conference Room 211.
11. Comments were received from 29 persons (transcript to be prepared) – some of the concerns raised included - location and conduct of informal conference, impacts to receiving streams, TMDL, amount of area to be mined, location/impact to communities; blasting impacts, dust, destruction of mountains by surface mining, etc.
12. After receiving comments from all persons who wished to provide such, the conference was closed at 8:00 p.m.